

REMARKS

This Amendment is being concurrently submitted with Applicant's request for continued examination regarding the present application. In the Advisory Action issued on January 14, 2004, the Patent Office indicated that claims 20-24, 26-36 and 38 are allowed and that claim 25 remains rejected. As indicated above, claim 25 has been canceled and thus all of the pending claims should be allowable.

In the Advisory Action, the Patent Office also indicated additional issues that needed to be addressed for this case to pass to allowance. At the outset, the Patent Office has indicated that the identification of SEQ ID NOs: 22-34 in the Sequence Listing are confusing. In response, the SEQ ID NO: 22 in the Sequence Listing has been removed. Further, previously filed SEQ ID NOs: 23-34 have been renumbered and are now identified as SEQ ID NOs: 22-33 as indicated in the attached Sequence Listing. Moreover, Applicants have amended the specification in the Brief Description of the Drawings section to include the SEQ ID NOs identified in each of Figs. 1-3. In view of same, Applicants believe that the issues with respect to the Sequence Listing have been addressed and thus the objections to the specification have been overcome and further that the Sequence Listing is in compliance with the Sequence Rules.

With respect to the Sequence Listing, the specification has been amended to include the Sequence Listing that is attached herewith. Further, Applicants are concurrently submitting herewith a Sequence Listing filing that includes the Sequence Listing in paper copy and in computer-readable form and further provides statements regarding same in compliance with the Sequence Listing Rules.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Robert M. Barrett
Reg. No. 30,142
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135
Phone: (312) 807-4204

Dated: March 10, 2004